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REPORT ON THE PROGRAMME OF WORK  
CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT AND CO-OPERATION COMMITTEE (CDCC)  
ECLAC SUBREGIONAL HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CARIBBEAN

(January - June 1985)

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad

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Introduction

The Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), located in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, provides the secretariat for the Caribbean Development and Co-operation Committee (CDCC).

The programme of work of the CDCC comprises the majority of the activities of the United Nations approved regular ECLAC Subregional Headquarters' work programme. It relates to the promotion of technical and economic co-operation for economic and social development among CDCC member countries, and between them and other developing countries, especially in other parts of Latin America. Implementation of the work programme is carried out in close collaboration with other Caribbean regional and subregional organizations, Latin American co-operation and integration institutions and the United Nations system of organizations.

A description in summary form is presented for each of the programme activities comprising the work programme of the ECLAC/CDCC Secretariat.

1. Programme Activity: Economic Surveys

The Annual Economic Survey (1984) was carried out for the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Detailed country reports have been completed for the above countries and reports for the British Virgin Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands are in process. The Economic Affairs Secretariat of the Organization of

Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) collaborated with the ECLAC/CDCC Secretariat in the surveys of Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica. Notes on the OECS member countries and on all the Caribbean countries covered by the survey are being prepared.

2. Programme Activity: Food and Agriculture

(a) Agricultural Statistics - A publication on agricultural statistics, Caribbean Countries, Volume VI, 1984 comprising data series for the ten-year period 1974-1983 has been prepared and circulated (Document LC/CAR/G/132).

(b) Promotion of Horizontal Co-operation between CDCC Countries in Agriculture - The final meeting of a Working Group of Directors of Agricultural Research from CDCC countries was convened at the ECLAC Sub-regional Headquarters for the Caribbean to draft proposals for the establishment of a Caribbean Co-operative Agricultural Research Network. These draft proposals have been sent to the Ministries of Agriculture of all CDCC member countries and to relevant institutions and agencies for comment prior to submission to potential donors.

The Secretariat participated in a subregional study in collaboration with CIAT, CIP and IITA which provided the working papers for a co-sponsored workshop to define the tropical root and tuber crop component of the network programme. (The workshop was held in Guadeloupe 9-10 July 1985).

(c) Rural Agro-based Industries in the Caribbean LDCs - A report on the survey of ongoing agro-industrial activities in the OECS has been completed (document LC/CAR/G/153).

Evaluation of the survey results was carried out at a meeting of agricultural experts convened by the Secretariat, and hosted by the Economic Affairs Secretariat of the OECS in Antigua. The meeting report (Document LC/CAR/G/152) has been prepared and circulated.

Draft recommendations on up-grading a food processing unit in Montserrat has been submitted to that Government for comment.

(d) Food Security in the English-speaking Caribbean - Preliminary work has been started on this joint activity with the FAO/ECLAC Joint Agricultural Division, Santiago.

(e) Multi-sectoral Study on Reduction of Losses on Primary and Perishable Food Commodities - A draft project proposal has been prepared for submission to Donors.

3. Programme Activity: Economic and Social Development Planning

(a) Training Seminar and Regional Workshop for Planners, Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles - discussions on this proposed seminar were held with representatives of Governments and with the prospective consultant.

(b) Establishment of an ECLAC/ILPES Planning Unit in the Caribbean - A proposed programme of work has been drafted for the Unit.

(c) Fifth Conference of Ministers and Heads of Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean, Mexico City, 15-17 April 1985 - The Secretariat participated in this meeting, it also provided liaison with ILPES and CDCC member governments concerning the latter's participation in the meeting.

4. Programme Activity: Science and Technology: Interim Secretariat for the Caribbean Council for Science and Technology (CCST)

(a) Preparation and Exchange of Audio-Visual Material for Education in Science and Technology - Preparatory arrangements have been made for making two video films on Agro-industry and Communications in Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Barbados and Guyana.

(b) Publication of a Science and Technology Newsletter - (The proposed Newsletter replaces the original idea of a Science and Technology Journal).

Preliminary preparations include consultations with the Scientific Research Council of Jamaica which is collaborating in this work, the soliciting of contributions, format design etc.

(c) Organizing and Convening the Seventh Executive Committee Meeting of CCST - This meeting was held on 22 May 1985 and a draft report for presentation to the next Plenary Session has been prepared.

5. Programme Activity: Social Development

(a) Preparatory work was done on the revision of the monograph of Social Structural Changes in Dominica;

(b) Research and drafting of a project proposal "Caribbean Encounters" on topic "Race, Class and Nationhood in the Caribbean and Latin America";

(c) Drafting of a project proposal on "Preservation of Cultural Heritage";

(d) Drafting of a paper "The Formulation of Social Policies for Structural Adjustment in CARICOM Member States";

(e) Completion of a project proposal "Network of Centres for Cultural Retrieval and Animation";

(f) An internal report on the programme "The Removal of Language Barriers" was prepared;

(g) Preparatory work was started for the implementation of the project "Creole Discourse and Social Development".

6. Programme Activity: Women in Development

(a) Secretariat support services were provided to CDCC member countries in preparation for the "World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women", Nairobi, Kenya;

(b) Implementation of the following ongoing projects continued:

(i) Women in Trade (Trinidad and Tobago);

(ii) Women in Development Planning (Saint Lucia);

(iii) Women in Development Planning (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines).

(c) Preparatory work was carried out on the following projects:

(i) Violence Against Women;

(ii) Ten Years is Not Enough: The Caribbean and its Women.

7. Programme Activity: Demography

(a) Completion of a document on "International Conference in Mexico, Implications for the Caribbean" (LC/CAR/G.147);

(b) Preparation of an information paper "Population and Development Planning in the Caribbean" which was presented at the UNFPA Meeting in New York, 22-24 January 1985;

(c) Preparation of a conceptual paper on the establishment of the ECLAC/CELADE Demography Unit at Port-of-Spain Headquarters with a proposed three-year work programme;

(d) Completion of preparatory work on guidelines for collaboration on the population projections exercise;

(e) The following project proposals have been drafted:-

- (i) Preparation of project proposal for a two-week training course in population and development for the Caribbean for submission to CARICOM;
- (ii) First draft of a project proposal for conducting a three-day seminar in population and development for the Family Planning Association of the Caribbean;
- (iii) Preparation of a project document on "Population/Development Interrelations: State of the Art";
- (iv) Preparation of a budget and outline for a ten-day training course on "Population Policy Formulation for the Caribbean" to be funded by CARICOM;
- (v) Preparation of the project document and provision of the co-ordinating mechanism for the ECLAC/CELADE Guyana demographic retrospective survey.

(f) Technical Assistance

- (i) Guyana - Consultations with the Government on technical assistance needs;
- (ii) Barbados - Technical assistance to government in the formulation of population policy;
- (iii) Trinidad and Tobago - Provision of technical assistance to the Family Planning Association in establishing a National Population Policy Commission, developing a population policy and conducting policy relevant research;

(iv) Jamaica - Development of a National Manpower Plan, and the implementation of population policy.

(g) Collaboration with ILO/PREALC, UNFPA, CELADE, and the Population Council with respect to methodologies for integrating population into development planning and other subjects;

(h) Completion of preparatory work on guidelines for population projections exercise.

8. Programme Activity: Co-operation between the Caribbean and other Countries of Latin America

Pilot study on trade between Latin America and Trinidad and Tobago. Outlines of the study have been prepared, pertinent statistical tables completed and drafting begun.

9. Programme Activity: Natural Resources

I. ECLAC/UNEP Project "Tourism and Environment in the Wider Caribbean"

(a) Preparation of the terms of reference for three proposed case studies, backstopping services to the consultants, review of progress and participation in the preparation of the economic sections of two of the case studies;

(b) Drafting of sections of the Secretariat's study: "Tourism and Environment: an Overview";

(c) Preparation of a paper entitled "Tourism Environment - Development: The Role of an Environmental Impact Assessment and Beyond" for the Caribbean Seminar on Environmental Impact Assessment (Barbados, 27 May to 7 June 1985);

(d) Preparation of a paper "Tourism Resources Development: Proposed Programme of Activities" (CDCC/9/INF.1) for the ninth session of CDCC;

(e) A project proposal "Environmental Management and Development Planning in the Caribbean Island Countries" was submitted to the Caribbean Trust Fund for funding. The project was approved.

(f) Consultation with Antigua and U.S. Virgin Islands concerning case studies under the ECLAC/UNEP project;

10. Programme Activity: Energy

A Seminar/Workshop on Energy Modelling and Planning was held in Barbados,



22-26 April: the seminar was sponsored by ECLAC/CDCC and the Caribbean Development Bank.

11. Programme Activity: Information and Documentation for Economic and Social Development

I. Caribbean Documentation Centre (CDC)

(a) Development of the CARISPLAN System

- (i) Implementation commenced on the joint IDRC/ECLAC project to establish a machine readable data base. The mini computer and peripherals, MINISIS and CARISPLAN data bases were installed and operations begun;
- (ii) Training in the use of the new computer soft-ware was provided to the CARISPLAN focal point in Trinidad and Tobago;
- (iii) Five issues of Current Awareness Bulletin were prepared and distributed;
- (iv) Discussions were held with the OECS Secretariat, Antigua, on the development of the OECS Documentation Centre;
- (v) Dissemination of information to user community;
- (vi) Establishment of the Patents Information Documentation Unit (PIDU). The information specialist was recruited and collection of patents issued by Caribbean Patent Offices started for the data bank at CDC.

(b) Energy Information Network

Holding of discussions with consultants and officials from governments and organizations.

(c) Caribbean Science and Technology Information Network (CARSTIN)

Consultations were held with officials of IDRC, UNESCO and other organizations on this subject.

(d) Advisory Services

The staff of the CDC participated in regular meetings of the

Working Groups on Library Automation and the Library and Information Network of the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Education.

12. Programme Activity: ... Statistics ...

(a) Organized and supervised work on computerization of the publication of the Agricultural Statistics Bulletin.

(b) Continuation of work on the establishment of the Statistical Data Bank.

13. Programme Activity: ... ECLAC/CDCC Support to OECS Member Countries ...

(a) Advisory assistance to the OECS Secretariat on the Eastern Caribbean Pharmaceutical Services and Revolving Fund;

(b) Customs Harmonization Study - collected and updated information;

(c) Final report of the Saint Vincent Prime Minister's Committee on Public Financing and Debt. Participation in the preparation and presentation to the Prime Minister.

(d) Double taxation agreement between Saint Lucia and the U.S.A. Participated as a member of the Committee to study and prepare alternatives for Saint Lucia in negotiating an exchange of information and for a double taxation agreement.

14. Programme Activity: ... International Trade ...

(a) Trade Procedures Guide - Revision and editing the draft Trade Procedures Guide for publication (document ECLAC/CARIB/G.84/4). Texts for CDCC countries with the exception of Antigua/Barbuda, Saint Christopher/Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago were included in the Guide. Copies have been distributed to Governments and interested organizations.

15. Programme Activity: ... Transport and Communications ...

(a) Caribbean Satellite System - Discussions and follow-up work with ITU Central America and Caribbean Regional Representative on this project proposal.

(b) TRAINMAR - Preparation of Project Document designed to establish the UNCTAD TRAINMAR programme at the ECLAC/CDCC Secretariat. This programme deals with training in all commercial aspects of shipping.

(c) Caribbean Postal Union - Preparation of proposal to establish CPU on similar lines to the CCST;

(d) Draft Maritime Code (Caribbean) - Study of documents produced by CARICOM in preparation for a meeting of an ad hoc expert committee;

(e) Maritime Safety Adviser (Caribbean) - Discussions with officials of Trinidad and Tobago regarding the location of a regional maritime safety adviser at the ECLAC Port-of-Spain Office. Liaison with Government of Trinidad and Tobago regarding visit of Secretary General of IMO;

(f) Establishment of New Telephone System - Participating in discussions with suppliers of equipment, the local telephone company, UN Headquarters, ECLAC Santiago and with UN Agencies in Trinidad concerning establishment of a new voice/data telephone system including a tie-line to New York. (The system when established will facilitate the substantive work of the Caribbean Information System and its components, CARISPLAN and the Patents Information and Documentation Unit (PIDU) through access to computerized data bases in other countries).

